

LAKESIDE COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

MINUTES

September 15, 2010

Members present: W. Allen, E. Bakeer, G. Barnard, A. Botter, J. Bugbee, L. Carlson, R. Clegg, C. Enniss, T. Medvitz, R. Smith, L. Strom, B. Turner, M. Turvey

Members excused: 1 (G. Inverso)

Members absent: 1 (P. Sprecco)

Public present: 27

1. **Call to order:** 7:04 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of minutes:** they have not been sent out yet.
4. **Administrative items/Announcements.** R. Smith said the next LCPG meeting will be a discussion of the Standing Rules of Order.
5. **Open forum:** none
6. **Public Hearing.**
 - A. **Presentation/Discussion Items.** None
 - B. **Proposed Publicly Initiated Action.**
 1. P-10-024, RP 10-001 El Monte Mining, Reclamation and Groundwater Recharge Project. The project will extract approximately 12 million tons of aggregate material over a 10 year period. The County is the CEQA responsible agency for the MUP and RP. The project also includes a groundwater recharge and recovery operation. Helix Water District (HWD) is the CEQA lead agency for the groundwater recharge and recovery operation. The approximately 571 acre project is located in the San Diego River watershed in the El Monte Valley. The project will require a Major Use Permit (MUP) and Reclamation Plan (RP) to extract approximately 12 million tons of aggregate material for commercial use. The surface mine, located on approximately 571 acres of land would operate over a 10 year period with approximately 8 years of active mining. The site will be reclaimed for an end use of habitat creation/restoration with a recreational/equestrian trail network. The County is the CEQA responsible agency for the MUP and RP for the mining and reclamation components of the project. The project also included a groundwater recharge and recovery operation of which as CEQA lead agency Helix Water District (HWD) is responsible for the permitting for the construction and operation. Up to 5,000 acre feet per year of highly purified recycled water would be recharged into the aquifer. The water would later be extracted for the aquifer from wells for potable use. HWD is also separately pursuing restoration of the San Diego River Valley beyond the reclamation requirements. The approximately 571 acre project is located in the San Diego River watershed in the Lakeside Community Planning Group within unincorporated San Diego County. It is bordered by El Monte Road to the south, Willow Road to the north and Highway 67 to the west. The site is subject to the General Plan Regional Category EDA Estate Development Area/ECA Environmentally Constrained Area, Land Use Designation (24)

Impact Sensitive (548.9 acres of the site), (19) Intensive Agriculture (17.3 acres of the site), (18) Multiple Rural Use (4.1 acres of the site), and (17) Estate Residential (0.3 acres of the site). Zoning for the site is .S-82 Extractive Use (480 acres) and A-70 Limited Agriculture Use (91 acres). Access would be provided by a private driveway accessing El Monte Road. The project will have portable toilets and no sewer and/or septic systems are required. No extension of sewer or water utilities will be required by the project. Mark Weston with Helix Water District made a slide presentation. This plan is to reduce the wastewater discharges to the ocean. Wastewater from Santee Lakes would be pumped through a 20" wide pipeline to the northwest side of their property and then distributed to sand pits on the north side of the river bed going east and then reclaimed on the southwest corner of their property and taken to their reclamation plant for distribution to HWD system. The sand mining would be started at the eastern end of the property and as each increment is completed it would be restored as a habitat/wetlands. This would be a \$200 million project. G. Barnard said 12 million yards of sand is an extremely large amount of sand and 600 truck trips a day (300 in, 300 out) would be quite disruptive to the area. Sand sales are down in the County. Will the trails be open during mining, answer yes. Some homeowners will lose their wells, the recharge ponds for wells must be a certain distance from homes. Will water be piped in. Yes homes that lose their wells will be provided with piped in water. A. Botter said plants cannot live if water level is too high. W. Allen said if the sand is extracted there would not be enough to filter the wastewater. J. Bugbee asked why HWD customers rates would go up. Answer was that this was a very expensive process to pipe the water from Santee Lakes, clean it, dump it into the river and then reclaim it. T. Medvitz said that before the Cedar Fire he learned all of the plants around his home were not indigenous, after the fire all of the indigenous plants came back but within three years they had been replaced by all of the non-indigenous plants, they cannot be kept out, so creating a habitat of indigenous plants is impossible to maintain. C. Enniss asked if this was extraction only, no import fill. Correct. He also said this is a Material Reserve Zone which is supposed to be protected for future use. More sand is not needed in this economy and even when the economy was good they did not sell the amount HWD is proposing. The most truck trips they have had is 170 and they are located right off of Hwy. 67. Also the aquifer is a flowing river under the surface how can they expect to get the wastewater they dump in to not just flow down the aquifer. Audience remarks. Kate Brace lives on Willow Road asked about the noise, trash and rest rooms. Milt Cyphert said he has a lot of issues HWD is not addressing. (1) There are a lot of homes that people will not be able to use their wells for drinking water, only for irrigation. (2) If they raise the water level to just under the table if the sand holding back the water is removed people will lose land by washing away. (3) This is an agricultural area, if the health department won't approve the well water for humans what about the live stock being raised in the valley that people eat. (4) The valley contains rare native oak trees, what will happen to

100's of them. (5) Dust mitigation, this area contains valley fever spore in the dirt. (6) Some people have invested many thousands of dollars in their property and this will make this investment null and void. Gordon Shackelford said that with regard to the wells the property owners now have to pay the electricity for the well pumps but some homes would need plumbing upgrades for piped in water. Also, sand extraction relies on economic cycles, etc. and the designers of this project have no idea how fast the sand is going to sell. He also asked if it would be possible to take the water from Santee to blend with San Vicente and then recover water from the City of San Diego. Jan Shackelford asked how large the pipeline from Santee. 20". This would create more disruption to the community. She also said she has gone over old pictures at the Historical Society and this was always a sandy wash, it was never a wetlands like they are proposing to create. It has never existed as they are proposing and the loss of agricultural property would be great. Concerns over nitrates from the Dairy and the amount of traffic. LCPG must be sure to receive EIR, scoping letter and water project. Piped in water would change land use. Laura Cyphert said asking for early endorsement of this project before the EIR doesn't give full disclosure to people being asked for support. Lisa Wood said she hopes the concerns being brought forward will be considered. Also, from work she has done with the County a lot of vegetation in the river bed encourages transients to take up residence. R. Smith said that LCPG must be on the mailing list for both projects. These projects will be back many times.

C. Proposed Privately Initiated Action. None

7. **Subcommittee reports as required.** CSA69, since a new collection agency has been hired they have upped the annual reserve by \$1 million.
8. **Adjournment:** 8:40 p.m.

Julie Bugbee, secretary
619-443-0371